

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants submit that the Office Communication mailed May 7, 2003 should have been a new non-final office action, and not an indication that Amendment A was non-responsive because Applicants did actually fully respond to the October 7, 2002 Office Action as the Action was mailed. The error with regard to Claim 21 was made on the part of the Examiner, and not in Applicants' response.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,737,051 to Kondo et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,040,887 to Matsuyama et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. Specifically, neither the Kondo et al. reference nor the Matsuyama et al. reference disclose or suggest a method of fabricating a liquid crystal display device that includes, *inter alia*, a step of "introducing an impurity into said liquid crystal layer," as defined in independent Claim 21.

In the present invention, the resistivity of the liquid crystal layer is lowered intentionally for the purpose of suppressing sticking of images by way of suppressing accumulation of electric charges in the liquid crystal panel. In order to reduce the resistivity, the present invention introduces an impurity into the liquid crystal layer.

Neither the Kondo et al. reference nor the Matsuyama et al. reference disclose or suggest the intentional introduction of an impurity into the liquid crystal layer. The

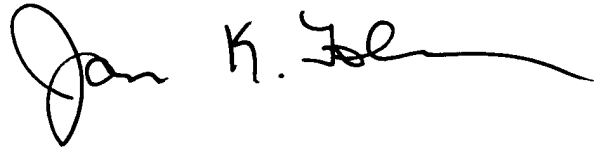
Examiner has argued that impurities released by the alignment layers, the color filters, the spaces and the seal all release “impurities” into the liquid crystal layer and decrease the resistivity of this layer.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is using the term “impurities” to mean what is normally referred to as “contaminants.” Moreover, the “impurities” referred to by the Examiner will not lower the resistivity, but will instead cause problems of uneven representation of images and degradation of image quality. In the present invention, as defined in Claim 21, an “impurity” (and not a “contaminant”) is introduced into the liquid crystal layer. Further, Claim 21 defines “introducing” an impurity, which implies a purposeful act, whereas the contaminants mentioned by the Examiner are not “introduced,” but are instead simply “released” by the alignment layers, the color filters, the spacers, and the seal. Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §103 rejection of Claim 21.

In addition, for the reasons discussed in original Amendment A, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the other rejections. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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